Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims Listing

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic system for ~~regulating~~ managing, processing and automating electronic activity, comprising: a fixed common user interface that includes means, through the use of a plurality of secondary interfaces for gathering and structuring data, for determining the rights and abilities of users within the ~~electronic business~~ system by means of ~~and requiring~~ a common data format and operating rule for creating, storing, and transaction of data used in the system~~,~~; a central clearinghouse for authorizing and authenticating users; and a common market permitting users employing said ~~user interface~~ system to locate propositions of interest and to negotiate and fulfill transactions~~, and a central clearinghouse for authorization and authentication of users~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface requires the user to provide, before ~~accepting~~ the system will accept and undertake any activity, who/what information relating to the activity, why/how information relating to the activity, and where/when information relating to the activity, input according to the common data format and operating rule.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the activity is a proposed business transaction, and upon the user interface receiving said who/what, why/how and where/when information, the selected information relating to the activity is automatically filed as a database object that is formatted according to the common data format and operating rule to be available for searching in at least one of the group consisting of the user's database and via a common market.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein said who/what information identifies a product, said why/how information identifies the product as being for sale, and said where/when information identifies details of fulfillment of a sale of a product.

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5.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein users engaged in selling of products may select credit terms for payment, and users engaged in purchasing of products may provide information permitting electronic funds transfer from a bank or other account of the purchasing user, said system common data format and operating rule comprising means ~~for~~ to automate the recording and accounting of credit terms and requesting an amount owed upon completion of a sale, said system common data format and operating rule also being able to be adapted to automate the request for electronic funds transfer from the bank or other account at a time when payment is due in accordance with the credit terms set forth in the fulfillment details.

6.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said user interface ~~means comprises~~ utilizes a plurality of secondary interface means, each of said secondary interface means ~~corresponding~~ responding to why/how information, and said secondary interface means being automatically presented to said user upon entry of corresponding why/how information in the user interface, according to the common data format and operating rule.

7.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, said system further comprising means for automatically executing fulfillment details ~~steps~~ identified in said where/when information upon agreement on sale of a product.

8.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein all communications relating to an activity are automatically recorded in a file object associated with the activity, structured according to the common data format and operating rule, so that they can be retrieved or executed automatically or otherwise, as part of the fulfillment requirements of that file object.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method implemented by a computer for data formatting and data processing ~~handling~~ in connection with ~~a proposed~~ an activity that is capable of being automated, comprising the steps of the common data format and operating rule successively prompting a user for and receiving from the user, through interactive primary and secondary user/machine interfaces, who/what information relating to the activity, why/how information relating to the activity, and where/when information relating to the activity, recording received discussions relating to the activity, recording agreements between parties ~~the user and another party~~, and, in a fulfillment stage, prompting and monitoring fulfillment steps in accordance with said where/when information.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the <u>computerized</u> activity is a proposed business transaction, and upon the user interface receiving said who/what, why/how and where/when information, <u>and it being processed by the machine according to the common data format and operating rule,</u> selected information relating to the activity is <u>capable of being</u> automatically available to one or more other users of the system for searching in a common market accessible to <u>all approved</u> users of the system.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said who/what information <u>gathered by the user/machine interface according to the common data format and operating rule</u> identifies a product, said why/how information identifies the <u>purpose of the</u> product as being for sale, and said where/when information identifies details of fulfillment of a sale of the product <u>and these details are contained in a database file or object structured according to common data format so as to be applicable to the automation inherent in the method</u>.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein users engaged in selling of products <u>using the system of this method</u> may <u>apply this method through the medium of appropriate user and machine interfaces designed according to the common data format and operating rule, to</u> select credit terms for payment, and users engaged in purchasing of products may provide information permitting electronic funds transfer from a bank <u>or other</u> account of the purchasing user, and ~~the method comprising the steps of recording~~ <u>to record</u> credit terms and amount owed<u>, and other relevant information, so that</u> upon completion of a sale, ~~and~~ <u>the</u> requesting <u>of payment by</u> electronic funds transfer from the bank <u>or other</u> account ~~at a time when payment is due in accordance with the credit terms~~ <u>is capable of being automated as part of the fulfillment process</u>.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of selecting <u>via the user/machine interface,</u> based on information received from the user, one of a plurality of ~~templates~~ <u>secondary interfaces for</u> defining information <u>according to the common data format and operating rule and applicable to specific activities,</u> for which the user is to be prompted.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein each of said ~~templates~~ secondary interfaces is selected and presented to the user by the system, based on a purpose ("why") of the activity as received from the user as required in the automation of the common data format and operating rule.

15.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of, following agreement on the sale of ~~the~~ a product, the system automatically taking steps according to the common data format and operating rule, and as set forth in the details of fulfillment, to fulfill the agreed terms and conditions of the sale.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said steps set forth in the details of fulfillment of any sale include ~~directing a~~ communications ~~identifying an~~ relating to order quantity, relevant notices, payment amount(s) and procedures, ~~and~~ delivery, ~~destination~~ and timing details.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein all communications relating to ~~the~~ an activity are automatically recorded in a file or database object attached to the file object that generates the activity.